CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 28 MAY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA ADDRESSED TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A PUBLICATION ENTITLED "CONSTRAINING CONVENTIONAL PROLIFERATION: A ROLE FOR CANADA" 1/

You will find enclosed copies of a new Canadian publication, entitled "Constraining Conventional Proliferation: A Role for Canada".

This important new report examines the issue of conventional arms proliferation from a Canadian point of view. The study was undertaken to support bilateral and multilateral efforts by Canada to address aspects of the conventional arms issue as identified by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and as outlined in the Government's foreign policy statement of January 1995 "Canada in the World". It was prepared by a study team assembled through York University's Centre for International and Strategic Studies and under the skilful direction of Dr. Keith Krause. The study team completed its work in late 1996.

The report places particular emphasis on identifying pragmatic options for action, based on Canadian national interests, that could contribute to international efforts to constrain conventional arms proliferation. It also addresses the strengths and limitations of Canada's ability to contribute to such international efforts. Among the issues discussed in the report are:

- the global conventional arms trade,

- Canada's defence production and exports,

- export controls,

- transparency measures such as the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms,

- the relationship of arms spending to human rights as well as social and economic development, and

- post-conflict conventional weapons disarmament measures.

While primarily directed at exploring a possible role for Canada in constraining conventional weapons proliferation, the report's findings have wider relevance to international discussions on this issue.

I would be grateful if the necessary arrangements could be made for its distribution to all member and participating non-member state delegations, under cover of a CD number.

(Signed): Mark J. Moher
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

1/ A limited distribution of this publication in English only has been made available to the members and non-members invited to participate in the work of the Conference on Disarmament. Additional copies are available from the Permanent Mission of Canada.